

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to correct the inadvertent typographical errors kindly pointed out by Examiner Pedder at the top of page two of the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 4 have also been amended to address the issues raised in the middle of page two of the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection based on the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully.

Also, other changes have been incorporated into Claims 2 and 4 for purposes of improving the readability of the claims and providing consistency with respect to other recitations in the claim as well as terms used in the written description. For example, the recitations throughout the claims referring to the "seat device" have been changed to --seat-- because the preamble of the claims refers to the seat device. Also, the recitation of the "first lock" has been changed to --first lock unit-- while the recitation of the "second lock" has been changed to --second lock unit-- for purposes of consistency with the terms used in the written description. The recitation in Claim 4 defining that the seat device is supported to be moved along the long hole when the second lock engages with the second engagement member has been changed to recite that the rotation axis is moved along the long hole when the seat is rotated relative to the bracket, once again consistent with the written description.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Pedder for the indication that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claim 3, and Claim 3 has been cancelled. Independent Claim 4 has also been amended to include the subject matter recited in independent Claim 3. The documents relied upon in the Official Action do not disclose a seat device having the combination of features now recited in independent Claim 4.

Also by way of this Amendment, independent Claim 1 has been cancelled, and new dependents Claims 5-10 have been added. The new dependent claims depend either directly or indirectly from allowable independent Claims 2 and 4.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in this application are allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 9, 2004

By: 
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620